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## United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY—Circular No. 113.

A. D. MELVIN, Chief of Bureau.

### CLASSIFICATION FOR AMERICAN CARRIAGE HORSES.

Since the inauguration of the work of the Bureau of Animal Industry for the development from American material of a carriage horse which would breed true to type, it has been evident that one of the earliest supplementary steps to give the movement wide scope and a broad foundation would be the establishment of classes for such horses at the State and National fairs. This sentiment has grown rapidly during the past year and has found expression in the addition of such classes to the premium lists of fairs in Iowa and Kentucky, States from which large numbers of American carriage horses are marketed. On their own initiative the Iowa State Fair, held at Des Moines, the Kentucky State Fair, held at Louisville, and the Blue Grass Fair, held at Lexington, Ky., have offered prizes for American carriage horses for the season of 1907.

The classifications adopted by these fairs are similar, but considerable differences exist which it is desirable to harmonize. A uniform, systematic, and practical classification, suitable for the guidance of fairs in general, is a possibility and will tend to bring about uniform exhibitions. If the horses shown under these conditions are capably judged, a uniform type can be fixed definitely and rapidly.

It seems fortunate that such a uniform classification has been made possible by a cooperative arrangement between the Bureau and the American Association of Trotting Horse Breeders. The classification was worked out by the committee on heavy harness horses of the association and was finally approved and distributed late in May, 1907. The committee is organized to represent the Department of Agriculture, the American Trotting Register Association, the American Saddle Horse Breeders' Association, and the American Morgan Register Association. Mr. George M. Rommel, the Animal Husbandman of the Bureau, is chairman of the committee, the other members being Mr. Joseph Battell, Middlebury, Vt., registrar of the American Morgan Register Association; Gen. John B. Castleman, Louisville, Ky., president of the American Saddle Horse Breeders' Association; Mr. A. T. Cole, Wheaton, Ill., a prominent breeder of Morgan horses of carriage type; Prof. Charles F. Curtiss, director of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, Ames, Iowa, and a member of the horse purchasing board of this Department; and Mr. H. K. Devereux, Cleveland, Ohio, a well-known trotting horse-

man and secretary of the American Association of Trotting Horse Breeders. Mr. Battell is serving on the committee temporarily until another representative of the American Morgan Register Association can be secured to take his place, as he feels that the pressure of other duties will not permit him to give the necessary time to the work of the committee which a permanent appointment would require.

As soon as the classification was approved it was sent out to the horse press and to managers of fairs. It has had a most cordial reception. The press has quite generally approved the plan, and the interest of fairs has been very gratifying. Two fairs have accepted the classification, and several others whose premium lists for 1907 were closed have signified a desire to take up the matter in time for the season of 1908. The fairs which have adopted the classification for 1907 are the Interstate Fair held in Kansas City and the Kansas State Fair held in Hutchinson. This start should be followed by its adoption generally, and wherever possible this should be done for the 1907 fairs.

The adoption of the classification by State fairs is especially urged for the reasons that they are in the closest touch with farmers, that the farmers are the breeders of most of the carriage horses sold on the American markets, and that the value of the American horse for carriage purposes is rarely appreciated by the farmers who breed them. Hundreds of horses are sold annually by farmers at really insignificant prices which after some months of finishing and handling are sold as carriage horses at prices up into the thousands. Furthermore, there is a continual sale of stallions to supply this trade. These horses are usually of only moderate value as speed producers, but are of excellent carriage type. If kept entire and properly mated, they could be of inestimable value as foundation sires of the American carriage horse, but as a rule they are castrated and lost so far as breeding value is concerned. If the powerful educational influence of the fairs and stock shows is thrown into the solution of the carriage-horse problem, the farmer will not only be educated to appreciate the intrinsic value of the native light horse for carriage purposes, but will recognize the worth of the stallion with good conformation and quality but only moderate speed as a sire of carriage horses, and the problem of fixing the type will be one of early solution.

When a fair adopts the carriage-horse classification it should take all possible steps to insure a creditable exhibition of animals. By direct correspondence and by press and official notices farmers who own suitable horses should be urged to exhibit.

The classification is given below. It includes not only a list of classes, but a description of the desired type and specifications regarding breeding. A careful study of the descriptive matter will enable a farmer to tell whether his horses come within the limits of the type and are properly bred.

**TYPE.**

The type desired for the American carriage horse is as follows: Not under 15 hands for mature horses; smooth, compact, and symmetrical conformation; neck of good length, inclined naturally to arch; sloping shoulders; well-set legs of medium length; sloping pasterns and good feet; short, strong back; well-sprung ribs well ribbed up to coupling; smooth loins; full flanks; straight croup with well-set tail; full, round buttocks.

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING ENTRIES.**

Classes open only to horses of American blood.

Stallions in Classes 1 to 5, inclusive, must be registered either in the American Trotting Register as standard, in the American Morgan Register, or in the American Saddle Horse Register, and certificate of such registry must be shown in the ring if required.

Entries in all classes for mares, entries as get of sire in Class 5 and produce of mare in Class 10, and entries in Class 11 must be sired by a stallion registered as above, but the dams of such entries need not be registered mares. The breeding of dams, however, as far as known, must be given when entry is made.

No mare having any draft cross will be eligible.

Any exhibitor falsifying the breeding of entries will be barred.

Entries in all classes must be practically sound.

**JUDGING.**

Entries in all classes to be judged on conformation, style, action, and manners as a suitable type of carriage horse. Special attention will be given to trueness of action. Good knee and hock action are desirable. Entries in all classes should trot and walk straight and true, and judges will especially avoid horses showing any tendency to mix gaits, paddle in front, or sprawl behind.

The following percentages will govern judges in Classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9: General conformation and all-round suitability as a carriage type, 60 per cent; style, action, and manners, 40 per cent.

The following percentages will govern in Class 5: General conformation and all-round suitability of sire as a carriage type, 30 per cent; style, action, and manners of sire, 20 per cent; general conformation and all-round suitability of get as a carriage type, taken as a whole, 30 per cent; style, action, manners, and uniformity of type in get, 20 per cent.

The following percentages will govern in Class 10: General conformation of dam as a brood mare of the carriage type, 50 per cent; general conformation, style, action, and manners of the foal, 50 per cent.

The following percentages will govern in Class 11: General conformation of entry as a carriage type, 70 per cent; style, action, and manners, 30 per cent.

**MANNER OF SHOWING.**

Entries in Classes 1, 2, 6, and 7 to be shown in harness hitched to any suitable vehicle. Entries in all other classes to be shown in hand to bridle or halter.

Excessive weight in shoeing in any class is forbidden.

**CLASSES.**

**Class 1.** Stallion 4 years old or over.

**Class 2.** Stallion 3 years old and under 4.

**Class 3.** Stallion 2 years old and under 3.

**Class 4.** Stallion 1 year old and under 2.

**Class 5.** Stallion with three of his get of either sex; get need not be owned by exhibitor.

- Class 6. Mare 4 years old or over.
- Class 7. Mare 3 years old and under 4.
- Class 8. Mare 2 years old and under 3.
- Class 9. Mare 1 year old and under 2.
- Class 10. Mare and foal of either sex.
- Class 11. Foal under 1 year old, either sex.

Approved :

JAMES WILSON.

*Secretary of Agriculture.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., *June 28, 1907.*

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